



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

Activity **E645D**

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for upland landscapes

Conservation Practice **645: Upland Wildlife Habitat Management**

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Cropland; Range; Forest; Pasture; Associated Ag Lands; Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Inadequate Fish & Wildlife Habitat

ENHANCEMENT LIFESPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Develop and implement a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan that supports enhancement of existing wildlife habitat (that currently meets minimum wildlife habitat planning criteria) in uplands within key landscapes to provide important foraging, breeding or overwintering habitat for locally breeding and migratory wildlife.

Criteria

- Develop a written Wildlife Habitat Management Plan to provide locally breeding or migratory wildlife species with enhanced foraging, breeding or overwintering habitat.
- Use a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) designed to assess wildlife habitat within an upland landscape on perennial cropland, pasture, rangeland, forestland, Farmstead, or Associated Ag Lands to document that implementation of the Enhancement will improve wildlife habitat value above minimum planning criteria. The following may be used to meet this criterion:
 - [For circumstances where planning criteria for wildlife habitat is equal to 0.5] Post implementation, planning criteria for wildlife habitat is equal to or greater than 0.6.



- [For circumstances where planning criteria for wildlife habitat is greater than 0.5] Post implementation, planning criteria for wildlife habitat increases at least 0.1.
- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) and any additional criteria contained in the State's specifications and as required by the NRCS State Office. (e.g. Audubon)
- The Wildlife Habitat Management Plan will identify management activities, locations where they will be applied, the amount in which they'll be applied and the time they will be applied to meet the targeted wildlife needs.
- Targeted terrestrial or aquatic habitats shall be those identified in the State's Wildlife Action Plan. Appropriate locations for this enhancement will be provided by the NRCS State Office who will base locations on current distribution of the targeted species and potential expansion into adjacent habitat for the target species. Other agencies (e.g. State Department of Fish and Game, USFWS) and organizations



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may provide input to NRCS concerning instances where the enhancement is used to provide habitat outside of the current distribution of the State Action Plan target species habitats.

- Use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals shall not compromise the habitat management objectives and will adhere to the State's Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) specifications.
- Use criteria in other NRCS Conservation Practice Standards to facilitate the management of wetland wildlife habitat associated with the uplands as appropriate for the site.
- Depending on site conditions, facilitating practices may be used to implement this enhancement. The NRCS Conservation Practice Standards may include, but are not limited to: Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420), Hedgerow Planting (Code 422), Fence (Code 382), Restoration of Rare or Declining Plant Communities (Code 643), Field Border (Code 386), Filter Strip (code 393), Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390), Shallow Water Development and Management (Code 646), Stream Crossing (code 578), Structure for Water Control (Code 587).

Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

Participant Will:

- Y Prior to implementation, review NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), including any State approved implementation requirements, job sheets or work sheets.
- Y Prior to implementation, provide NRCS with any relevant information related to onsite operations and management for inclusion in the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan
- Y Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to review results of wildlife habitat assessment conducted by NRCS and discuss range of management alternatives that would improve wildlife habitat conditions
- Y Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to obtain and review Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.
- Y During implementation, follow the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.
- Y During implementation, maintain field log to include:



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- Date/time of each field visit and document any required monitoring activities from the Wildlife Plan;
 - Digital photographs to document habitat provided through the management actions intended to reduce impacts of human disturbance
- Y After implementation, provide the field log to NRCS for review to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

NRCS will:

- Y As needed, provide additional technical assistance to the participant.
- Y Prior to implementation, provide and explain State NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Y Prior to implementation, assess habitat condition using Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide to calculate current WHEG score and anticipated WHEG score after implementation of Enhancement; **Existing WHEG score = _____ Planned Post Implementation WHEG score = _____**
- Y Prior to implementation, review results of wildlife habitat evaluation with participant and discuss range of management alternatives that would improve wildlife habitat conditions
- Y Prior to implementation, develop Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for wildlife habitat on land type for targeted suite of species using those habitats.
- Y Prior to implementation, review and explain the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan to the participant.
- Y After implementation, reassess habitat condition using Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide; **Post Implementation WHEG score = _____**
- Y After implementation, review field log to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.



NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

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Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date